

News Highlights, May 3-10

News and Observer

Ship's crew remembered at British Cemetery on Ocracoke

Tom Cunningham considers it a great act of generosity that the people on the small island of Ocracoke would set aside a plot of land to bury his father and three other British sailors 70 years ago. Sub-Lt. Thomas Cunningham was one of 37 crewmen on the HMS Bedfordshire when it was torpedoed by a German sub off the North Carolina coast on May 11, 1942. Read more here.

News 14 Carolina

Greensboro's downtown greenway opens next phase of project

The Gate City's downtown greenway reached another big milestone. Sunday afternoon, the latest big phase of the project, called Morehead Park, opened to the public. The new section is at the corner of Spring Garden and South Edgeworth Streets. It includes a quarter mile of walking and biking trails. See the video here. See a slideshow from Greensboro Daily Photo here.

USA Today

What's in a town name? Pure Americana

Imagine the map without names like Lazbuddie, Texas; Bowlegs, Okla.; or Braggadocio, Mo.; or the West Virginia towns of Left Hand and Cucumber, of Odd and of Shock.... Unusual local place names, often chosen by pioneer settlers to make a joke, mark an occasion or grind an axe, are slowly being squeezed out by ones fabricated by developers to market real estate, according to Mike Hill of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History. Read more here.

Salisbury Post - Opinion

Ray Hayworth: Visionary who saw the big picture

Salisbury mourns the loss of one of its finest visionaries ... Ray Hayworth. Ray was head of the Planning Department for the city of Salisbury in the late 1970s and 1980s, in what could be called a period of renaissance. During this time, the Historic Salisbury Foundation and Waterworks saw their births. Mr. Hayworth was chief among their proponents. Read more here.

Carolina Arts News

Wayne Martin Named Executive Director of the North Carolina Arts Council

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle announced today that H. Wayne Martin has been named Executive Director of the NC Arts Council, based in Raleigh, NC. Martin, who succeeds long time director Mary B. Regan, has more than 25 years experience in arts management with more than half of that time working in the arena of arts-driven economic development. Read more here.

Independent Weekly

Proud to call him Lumbee: Willie French Lowery, 1944-2012

Lauded Lumbee songwriter, artist, husband and father Willie French Lowery passed away May 3 at the age of 68. Lowery's legacy includes more than 40 years worth of music, shaped by Indian, African, and European American traditions alike. ... Arguably, his most important career role, though, was as a cultural figurehead in the Lumbee tribe. An assistant curator at the North Carolina Museum of History and member of the Lumbee community, Jefferson Currie III calls Lowery a hero: "His entire career makes [us] proud. In some ways, he helped to nurture a stronger identity and sense of being among Lumbees. I think his legacy will continue for a long time." Read more here.

WECT (AP Story)

NC historical marker to honor native jazz great

North Carolina is recognizing the talent of a jazz legend and native son with a highway historical marker. A marker honoring Thelonious Monk is scheduled for dedication on Friday in Rocky Mount. The dedication is part of the town's weekend Harambee Festival, which will include speakers, seminars and a jazz concert. Read more here.

The Pilot

Upcoming Symphony Concert Features Sinatra Tunes

Velvet-toned vocalist Steve Lippia joins the North Carolina Symphony to celebrate a true American original, Frank Sinatra. The orchestra, led by Resident Conductor William Henry Curry, presents "Simply Sinatra" at Raleigh's Meymandi Concert Hall on Friday and Saturday, May 18-19 at 8 p.m. Read more here.

Daily Reflector

Natural on the water

Kristi Overton Johnson's make-or-break moment came not long after she received her diploma from J.H. Rose High School in 1988. The girl who started water skiing at age 4 and was a professional at 13 had become mentally tired of the sport, but she trekked down to Florida to train for what she thought might be the final season of her career. ... Overton Johnson and seven others will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame tonight in Raleigh. Overton Johnson is the only female member of this class and she will be the only water skier in the entire Hall of Fame. Read more here.

Wilmington Star-News

Spanish-language CD gets hearing

The Spanish-language radio station "La Gran D" went off the air more than a year ago, but its sound lives on with a new album. The album "Tu Mundo Ya No Es Mi Mundo" by the band Los Cunados de Tierra Caliente was prepared by Jeff Sanchez of Wilmington, former station manager for WLGD, better known as "La Gran D." ... Sanchez made the CD with support from a \$4,000 folklife grant from the N.C. Arts Council, originally given in August 2010. Music from the album is currently featured in the exhibit "Al Norte, Al Norte: Latino Life in North Carolina," which opened Friday at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. Read more here.

News 14 Carolina

Wooden boat show sails on in Beaufort

North Carolina's maritime history is on display this weekend in Beaufort. The 38th annual wooden boat show at the Maritime Museum will offer a glimpse at how hand crafted boats used to be built. There will be sailboat races and rides as well as activities for kids where they can make their own boats. Read more here.

News and Observer

Students honored for eugenics documentary

A quartet of 13-year-old documentarians is out to educate their classmates and the nation about North Carolina's former eugenics program that sterilized people not deemed fit to have children. The eighth-graders from Carnage Middle School in Raleigh will represent North Carolina in the National History Day contest after capturing a first-place prize for their documentary "Eugenics: North Carolina's Emerging Secret." The 10-minute documentary comes as state lawmakers are grappling with whether to compensate the living survivors of a program that involuntarily sterilized thousands of people from 1929 to 1974. Read more here.